

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 IO-10 /082 W

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P R 110852Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8781

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1602

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CB KS

SUBJECT: KOREAN VIEWS ON CAMBODIA

1. CONGRESSMAN WIGGINS MET WITH PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG
P'IL MARCH 10. AMBASSADOR PRESENT. MOST OF DISCUSSION
DEVOTED TO REPERCUSSIONS FROM COLLAPSE OF CAMBODIA.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM CONGRESSMAN WIGGINS
PRIME MINISTER SAID COLLAPSE OF CAMBODIA COULD RAISE SERIOUS
DOUBTS AMONG KOREANS AS TO US DETERMINATION TO MEET ITS
COMMITMENTS AND WOULD MAKE NORTH KOREANS MORE BELLICOSE
AS RESULT PERCEPTION OF LESSENERED RESOLVE OF US. PRIME
MINISTER THOUGHT COLLAPSE OF CAMBODIA WOULD HAVE SERIOUS
EFFECT NOT ONLY ON VIETNAM BUT THAILAND, WHICH WOULD BE
COMMUNISTS' NEXT TARGET.

3. PRIME MINISTER WAS CAREFUL TO DIFFERENTIATE CAMBODIAN
DEFENSE EFFORTS FROM THOSE OF KOREA, WHEREAS KOREA IS
IN A POSITION TO BE SELF-RELIANT AND RESIST NORTH KOREAN
EFFORTS IF NOT SUPPORTED FROM OUTSIDE, PRIME MINISTER
ATTRIBUTED CAMBODIAN COLLAPSE IN PART TO FAILURE OF ITS
OWN EFFORTS AND NARROW SUPPORT OF CAMBODIAN LEADERSHIP.

4. DRUING CONVERSATION WIGGINS ALSO THANKED PRIMIN
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FOR RELEASE OF TWO AMERICANS HELD IN KOREAN PRISONS ON

WHOSE BEHALF HE HAD INTERVENED PREVIOUSLY. WIGGINS ALSO
ASKED ABOUT IMPACT OF AMERICAN RECESSION ON KOREAN ECONOMY.
PRIMIN RESPONDED THAT WHEN US HAS COLD JAPAN SNEEZES, AND
KOREA GETS PNEUMONIA.

5. PRIMIN'S COMMENTS ON CAMBODIA CARRIED IN MARCH 11 PRESS.
SNEIDER

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NNN

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